The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
"1 BILLION DOLLARS"
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1695 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1943 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 33, NO. 40.

FACING the FACTS
With PHILIP PEARL

Boston—All year long people—especially Government officials of high and low rank—have been telling labor what to do and how to do it. This convention of the American Federation of Labor is going to reverse that process. Before this conclave is over, organized labor will have told Government officials, high and low, what they should do and how to do it in the most effective manner for the successful prosecution of the war effort.

For it is here that the policies of the labor movement are forged in the democratic process of debate and ballot and it is here that the desires, the demands and the wisdom of six million hard-working, hard-headed American citizens find expression.

And make no mistake about it—the nation listens when labor speaks. True, the voice of labor is not yet as dominant in the councils of our country as it should be and will be in the years to come. But the increasing influence of the workers in national affairs is clearly apparent. Evidence of this fact is discernible in the large number of Government representatives and newspaper correspondents who are attending and reporting upon the activities of the convention.

The Political Future

The politicians, too, are keeping close tabs on convention developments. For this is the last annual meeting of the AFL to be held before the crucial national elections of 1944. The leaders of both major political parties are anxious to know how the labor vote will go. They fully realize that the workers of America will decide the 1944 elections by their vote.

However, there will be few manifestations of partisan politics in the convention proceedings. The American Federation of Labor unquestionably will adhere to its traditional non-partisan political policy. It will not endorse any national ticket as a whole. As in the past, it will pick and choose among the candidates of both parties those candidates whose records have been friendly and cooperative and endorse them. Candidates with hostile labor records will be opposed. This, of course, is the usual procedure.

But the political activities of the AFL in the coming year will not be "as usual." They will be enlarged and expanded and pepped up to an extent that is likely to surprise the nation. For throughout the rank and file of the AFL there has developed a surging tide of indignation against those officeholders who have betrayed American workers and their precious freedoms. This feeling is shared by the Federation's leaders. Therefore, for the first time in many years the AFL will conduct a nation-wide political drive, well-organized and effectively directed, to drive out of office the labor-haters and the labor-baiters.

This convention, therefore, will serve notice on the leaders of both political parties to clean house, to divorce themselves of labor's enemies—or take the consequences on Election Day.

The Business Future

Business representatives are also keeping a sharp eye on what labor does at this convention. For the leaders of private industry in this country are growing more and more disturbed about post-war developments. They are reconciled to a large extent of government participation in the operation of free enterprise during wartime, regarding it as a temporary evil. But they are really worried about whether industry will be able to recapture its independence and free itself of burdensome Government regulation when peace comes.

Of course, there is more than one school of thought among businessmen. There are still some free enterprisers left who regard the post-war period as a free anarchy, a sort of economic warfare with no holds barred and devil-take-the-hindmost. Naturally, these rugged individualists foresee the destruction of trade unions along with the elimination of any and all Federal regulation.

But a more modern and intelligent school of thought—and it is constantly growing stronger—is developing. American businessmen realize a return to the "good old days" is impossible, that labor unions are here to stay and that refusal of industry to accept its responsibilities and duties to the public constitutes the real menace to free enterprise. These men realize that a post-war alliance with organized labor which will eliminate unnecessary and costly conflicts in industrial relations and make possible the refrigerants of Government from the bitter fruits of the fascist empire of dictator.

These progressive and forward-looking businessmen who know that post-war prosperity depends largely upon full labor-management cooperation will derive aid and encouragement from the actions of this AFL convention.

Army Chiefs Tell Leaders Of AFL Main Job In War Is Still Ahead

Washington, D. C.—A delegation of American Federation of Labor leaders, headed by President William Green, was told by General George C. Marshall; Chief of Staff, General Henry H. Arnold, chief of the Army Air Forces, and other high military officers that the real task of defeating the Axis was just beginning and that the United States faced a long, hard job both on the fighting fronts and in war production.

The AFL leaders were among the 200 representatives of industry, labor and newspapers rushed here on full-War Department conference in Washington September 27 and 28. The meeting was arranged by Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson to give the leaders a close-up picture of the military situation and production problems, including much confidential information which could not be given to the general public.

The general picture presented by the military leaders was that the armies of both Germany and Japan are now stronger than before the war and that there was little chance that their resistance would collapse in the near future.

This was emphasized specifically by Maj. Gen. George V. Strong, Army Intelligence chief, who said the German Army has nearly three times as many combat divisions in the field today as when the attack on Poland began four years ago.

Patterson said that off-the-record statements by Marshall and Arnold agreed with Strong's view that "we have a long way to go before this war is won."

He said the Army leaders "left no doubt that our recent victories have failed to affect in any vital degree the strength of the enemy."

"To date of victory," he declared, "we must throw everything we have into this fight, and we must not relax our efforts until the last enemy has thrown down his arms."

The AFL leaders heard various officers and production experts outline requirements for specific production in which their unions were engaged and were given a view of the huge job likely to take place in the post-war period. At Fort Belvoir, Va., where the concluding session of the conference was held, they also had the opportunity to see much army equipment in operation during a simulated battle between trained troops.

Charles E. Wilson, executive vice-president of the War Production Board, discussed with them the gigantic problem of reducing production in some fields, as requirements are fulfilled, and shifting the emphasis to other fields where needs are pressing.

He said there should be no letup in such a way that the United States could still produce $80,000,000,000 worth of war materials in 1944—a gain of $17,000,000,000 over this year's estimated production.

Summing up at the end of the conference, Patterson said:

"The war is going better for us, but this is no promise that we have victory in our grasp. There remains the strength of the enemy to be dealt with and there was little chance that the enemy would collapse in the near future.

"We have strong hopes. We have the determination to win. We have the will and we have brave and valiant allies."

He concluded by leaving with the leaders the suggested slogan he words "Let's go."

Labor leaders, commenting on the conference, said they had been greatly impressed by the frank statements made to them and expressed the belief that if workers everywhere had this information it would go a long ways toward dispelling any complacency or overconfidence they might have.

President Green said:

"I regard this conference as most interesting and educational. It is clearly evident that all that will get victory is the unstinted efforts of the workers and the understanding of the war situation, military strategy and the necessity for increased production as a result of these sessions."

Convention Highlights

Boston—The war was brought home to the delegates at the AFL convention here by a striking exhibit in the convention hall of war equipment which has seen service on the fighting fronts.

This equipment, made by AFL workers, bears the marks of enemy bullets and bomb blasts. It was brought back from Africa, Europe and Asia by the Army to show American workers how the things they are making are helping to win the war.

* * *

The delegates were also privileged to see motion pictures of actual fighting by American soldiers on the battlefronts. The pictures were exhibited at a special showing on "Army Night," Oct. 5, in the convention hall at the Hotel Statler.

At the conclusion of the thrilling newsreel, Joseph C. Dreyfus, Jr., of the U. S. A. Field Artillery, who was wounded in the North Africa campaign, told the delegates of his war experiences and about his visits to war plants in this country.

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The oldest delegate at this AFL convention, in point of service, is William D. Mahon, AFL Vice President and head of the Street and Electric Railway workers union. He recently celebrated his 50th anniversary as President of the union.

The youngest "delegate" is eleven-year-old Sally Tobin, tiny daughter of Delegate Sam Tobin of Detroit, representative of the Iron Workers. Sally, however, has been coming to AFL conventions since she was a baby and considers herself an "old-timer" because she knows so many of the delegates by name.

* * *

Venerable, white-haired Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, is also here. The convention wouldn't be the same without him. Despite his advanced years, Mr. Morrison is in good health and is actively interested in every detail of the convention proceedings. He will address the convention before adjournment.

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In point of numbers, this is one of the largest conventions in AFL history. More than 600 delegates crowd every inch of the Statler auditorium. Of course, the number of delegates is limited by the convention call, otherwise the entire membership of all the AFL unions would make too great a gathering even for Madison Square Garden or the Boston Common.

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Horse-drawn sightseeing vehicles are lined up in the square facing the Statler Hotel. This, however, is not the result of a historic Boston party. It seems that historic Boston has always gone in for equestrian sightseeing, in the spirit of Paul Revere.

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Officials of the Boston Central Labor Union and the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor have done a fine job in providing for the comfort and entertainment of the delegates. The convention setup is one of the best the delegates have found in any city. Everywhere they go, friendly, hospital spirit of the local labor movement has given rise to Boston's reputation as an uppish, stand-offish town. Hats off to Boston for the fine welcome it has given to the 63rd annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Green Keynotes AF of L Convention With Pledge Hitler's Fatal Bullet Will Bear Union Label

Department Meetings Raise Curtain For Big Show At Boston

Boston—Three brief but highly successful departmental conventions raised the curtain for the AFL's annual big show. Summarized accounts of these meetings follow:

Metal Trades

Admiral Land told the Metal Trades Convention that AFL workers had done a tremendous job in the shipbuilding program. He warned that the nation must build 7500 more merchant ships by the end of 1944 with the help of labor.

Assistant Secretary of Labor Dan W. Tracy also paid high tribute to labor's war record and expressed confidence that the workers would "carry on" for the duration.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Bard emphasized that wholesome labor-management relations are the key to post-war prosperity and he answered to fears of extended Government domination.

A large number of resolutions affecting union policies in shipyards, aircraft plants and munitions factories throughout the nation were considered and acted upon by the delegates. President John P. Frey and Secretary-Treasurer Joseph N. McDonagh were unanimously re-elected.

Building Trades

The need for a tremendous post-war construction program was the dominant note stressed at the Building and Construction Trades Department Convention. AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, both of whom addressed the meeting, emphasized that a nation-wide housing program is essential to general revival of industry when the war ends.

The convention pledged to continue its 100 per cent record of preventing work stoppages on war job, due to jurisdictional disputes for the duration, provided there is no interference from Federal agencies "which sometimes fail to understand the human side of this great institution of skilled workers."

Resolutions were adopted urging the Navy to stop using Seabees on construction work within the United States; recommending more funds for the Bureau of Labor Standards of the Department of Labor and protesting against further encroachments upon the activities and functions of that department by new Federal agencies.

The convention decided to continue Richard Gray as Acting President of the Department for the duration and re-elected Herbert Rivers Secretary-Treasurer.

Union Label Trades

The extent to which the war has broadened and expanded the activities of the Union Label Trades Department was emphasized by AFL President Green and other speakers at the convention. While continuing to plug the union label, in the interests of labor and the union service button, the department, it was revealed, is also engaged in active campaigns to sell war bonds, to send union-label cigarettes free of charge to members of the armed forces overseas and to educate union workers and their wives in war food problems and nutrition values.

Matthew Woll was re-elected President of the Department and L. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Executive Council's Report

Boston—Labor's brilliant and imposing record of war service was cited by the Executive Council in its report to the 63rd annual convention of the American Federation of Labor as proof of the fact that the trade union movement is an indispensable part of America's democratic structure.

The report emphasized that more than a million AFL members are now serving in the armed forces; that the six million AFL workers on the home front have wrought war production miracles and that the labor movement has accepted hardships and sacrifices voluntarily to speed victory. Only when basic principles were at stake has labor interposed objections to war policies, the report declared.

In a broad survey of post-war problems the Council urged collective bargaining among nations to assure lasting world peace and stressed the "major responsibility" of our own country in achieving this transcendent objective.

The fundamental domestic post-war policy must be to produce for peace on a scale large enough to provide jobs for all.

Excerpts and highlights of other portions of the Executive Council's report follow:

Organizing Activites

The Federation has kept up its record by establishing a new record in the field of organization. Campaigns to bring the unorganized were prosecuted with diligence and success in all fields, especially war industries. During the year the AFL spent a total of $1,270,348 for organizing activites. Many organizers are serving on war labor boards, the OPA, manpower boards and other war agencies.

Negotiations with CIO

It was impossible to prevail upon the CIO committee to agree upon a simple, easily understood no-raiding plan. The last meeting, held on April 1, 1943, ended in disagreement without making provisions for holding future meetings.

UMW Charter Application

The Executive Council decided to submit the facts with regard to the application of the United Mine Workers Union for an AFL charter to the convention without recommendation.

Social Security

To end the fear of want in America, it is vital that Congress adopt the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill, which broadens and liberalizes the present social security system. This bill was prepared and is supported by the AFL.

National Labor Relations Board

The NLRB has not been "realistic, judicious or fair" in cases involving conflicts between AFL and CIO unions. To preserve the integrity of AFL contracts, it was necessary to get Congress to adopt an amendment to the appropriation bill for the NLRB which prohibits the board from using its funds in prosecuting complaints which have been in force for three months with notice to all interested parties.

National Legislation

A coalition of reactionary Republicans and Southern Democrats in Congress abolished several New Deal agencies and forced adoption of the Connally-Smith Bill over the President's veto. This law is now thoroughly discredited and should be repealed. Rep. Lesinski of Michigan has introduced a bill for that purpose.

Chinese Exclusion

The Council reaffirmed labor's opposition to relaxation of immigration barriers. It declared that "the fact that China is our ally in this war should not influence us to permit the repeal of the Oriental Exclusion Law any more than the fact that Russia is an ally should influence us to embrace communism."

Cost of Living

The Federation strongly insists that Congress provide funds for subsidies in order that prices may be rolled back to the Sept. 15, 1942, level. President Green has personally advised President Roosevelt that prices must be rolled back or the Little Steel formula thrown into the discard.

State Legislation

The report reviewed the various anti-labor laws adopted in several States during the year and pointed out that their validity is now being tested in the courts. The underlying purpose of these measures, the Council said, was to destroy or weaken the trade unions.

Anti-Trust Prosecutions

Labor hopes that the campaign launched against it in 1938 by the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice will end. The successful resistance of the AFL to these suits "marks one of the most brilliant pages in the history of the AFL."

AFL Membership Shows Big Gain

Boston—The dues-paid membership of the AFL at the end of its fiscal year, Aug. 31, 1943, stood at 5,339,021, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany reported to the convention.

This represents a net gain of 457,440 members since the last annual report made to the convention in October, 1942.

However, the total does not include the membership of the International Association of Machinists which paid per capita tax on 328,000 members in 1942 but which failed to pay on any members in 1943. The gross gain in new members for the year was actually 785,940.

Mr. Meany also submitted a detailed financial report for the year, showing receipts of $2,422,854 and expenditures of $2,910,029, with a balance on hand of $1,680,076 at the end of the fiscal year. Receipts and expenditures are broken down into general and special funds.

Receipts include dues from affiliated unions showed that they had paid out a total of $22,865,611 in death, sick, unemployment, disability and other benefits to members during the year.

AFL Labor League For Human Rights Backs $125,000,000 War Fund Drive

New York—With the 850 central labor bodies and more than 30,000 national, international, federal and unions of the AFL mobilized to support the "Share the Load" National War Fund and community war chests, the American Federation of Labor, through its relief arm, the Labor League for Human Rights, is now entering the largest fund raising campaign in its history, Matthew Woll, president of the league, announced.

Pledges of active cooperation have been pouring in from all over the country, Woll said, including those of chairman of the League, and to Matthew Woll. Endorsements of the League campaign have come from state federations, central labor bodies, local industrial and local unions. As chair of United Nations Relief AFL committees, set up to act as liaison between AFL bodies and war chest committees, is already actively at work on the actual mechanics of the gigantic drive.

A poster, showing the Statue of Liberty with torch upheld, and emphasizing Patriotism, Labor Giving Sons, Its Strength, Its Savings," has been distributed by the hundred thousand for exhibition on billboards, in union halls and factories, and on bulletin boards.

Throughout this campaign, the League will be in full and exclusive charge of all appeals directed to members of the American Federation of Labor. By the terms of the agreement described with the National War Fund and with community war chests, labor's representatives are seated on the executive committees and budget boards which conduct the overall campaigns in each country. The AFL receives credit for all contributions made through the League for the League's committees, and allocations for the AFL's own war relief program in Britain, Russia, China and U. S. Army camps are assured.

In addition to support of labor's own war relief projects, the $125,000,000 drive of the National War Fund will provide funds for seventeen "relief" organizations, among them the members of the United Nations as well as the home front. Among the agencies included in the National War Fund are the British, Chinese, Greek, Polish, Norwegian, Belgian and Dutch relief societies, War Prisoners' Aid, and the U. S. Committee for the Care of European Children. The League's position within the National War Fund framework is that of participating and contributing agency, since it shares in the responsibility of conducting the campaign in addition to receiving allocations for its own program from the Fund.

On the basis of preliminary reports gathered by Abraham Bluestein, executive director of the League, from regional offices of the League all over the country, Mr. Woll predicts that labor's new American Federation of Labor members will contribute in excess of $20,000,000 to the cause of relief and community services.

"Even now, when the campaign has not been officially opened in most communities," said Mr. Woll, "it is apparent that labor is fully aware of the need to give for the great humanitarian causes this drive is designed to serve. We can be sure that members of the AFL will give their share, and more than their share, to the National War Fund campaign."

OCD BOARD INCLUDES TWO UNION OFFICIALS

Washington, D. C.—Formation of a national board of review to pass final judgment on the protection and security records of plants nominated for the National Security Award, is announced by OCD. The board, composed of delegated representatives of seven major labor, management, and safety organizations, includes George J. Richardson, secretary-treasurer, International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL), and Carl G. Goff, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

The National Security Award is granted by OCD to plants and other essential facilities for outstanding achievement in protecting their employes, physical property, and production processes against air raids, fire, sabotage, accident and other dangers.

SHIP BUILT BY AFL MEN PRESENTED TO CHINESE

Richmond, Calif. — The United States has transferred to the Chinese government a "Liberty Ship built here at the Permanente Metals Corp. yard by AFL workers. The ship, named Gen. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, was presented to Chinese representatives by Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Lend-Lease Administrator. It will enter the trans-Pacific trade on a training vessel for merchant seamen.

NELSON REPORTS BOOST IN AIRCRAFT OUTPUT

Washington, D. C.—WPB Chairman Donald M. Nelson praised labor's part in the increases in aircraft production when he revealed in the fourteenth monthly production report that the aircraft output per worker in that industry has increased 26 per cent in the past eight months.

Nelson said that per worker increase in airplane production during this year have been stimulated in part by the efforts of the Army, Navy and WPB in cooperation with the airplane manufacturers and the labor unions. Nelson said, "It should also be pointed out that during the past eight months there has been a 25 per cent increase in labor productivity in the airplane industry."

TEAMSTERS PACT APPROVED BY TRUCKING COMMISSION

Washington, D. C. — The WLB Trucking Commission announced that it had approved an agreement between the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL) and Los Angeles milk companies equalizing the rates for the Los Angeles drivers with rates approved by the trucking commission last month for drivers in the San Diego area. The new rates mean an increase of $12 to $20 a month.

The teamsters agreement, covering about 5,000 workers in all, also provides for increased vacation privileges, overtime premiums, and night shift differentials.

Outlines Labor's Plans To Win War And Peace As Delegates Cheer

Boston—Declaring that the bullet that will end Hitler's life will "beat the union label," President William Green, in a resounding keynote speech to the 63rd Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, pledged labor's unstinted efforts to win the war and win the ensuing peace.

Realizing that labor's astounding contributions to America's war effort never before have been so forcefully presented, the delegates broke into repeated cheers as Mr. Green "denounced" the critics who denounce labor.

"If challenge any group—business, economic or administrative—to show a better record than the soldiers of production have made since Pearl Harbor. This army of production is serving just as faithfully and just as well as our armies on the battle field."

For the first time, Mr. Green revealed the astonishing comparison between casualties among American workers on the home front and the battle front. Thus far suffered by the nation's armed forces on the battle fronts.

He showed that while military casualties total 105,205 including 20,104 dead, there have been 80,000 workers killed in industrial accidents since Pearl Harbor and 7,000,000 injured.

This was the American Federation of Labor chief's cogent answer to those who have viciously and maliciously sought to belittle and smear the sacrifices and service rendered by American workers in this war.

"I do not claim that labor is giving more or doing more, because I know what our soldiers on the battle fields are giving their all," Mr. Green said. "But I do want these facts to be presented to the American people and to those who have tried to hoodwink the people with anti-labor propaganda."

Mr. Green gave an inspiring report to the delegates on the amazing increases accomplished by labor in the production of ships, tanks, guns and planes. He noted that labor productivity in plane manufacture had risen 25 percent in eight months and that output of self-propelled artillery had stepped 22 percent in one month. Emphasizing the fact that 85 percent of war material is made by union labor, Mr. Green added:

"The planes, the tanks, the guns and the bombs that will eventually crush our enemies are being made largely by union labor and we hope that the bullet that will finally end Hitler's life will bear the union label.

"There's the answer to our critics.

"I know that it is the purpose of our workers to reach new heights and to establish new records in production. The Government is calling upon us for more. We are going to respond and give more. The efficiency of our skilled workers will be increased as the services of new give will be improved. I know that is a matter which will be given vital consideration by our Government.

Mr. Green concluded his address with an eloquent plea for an immediate attack on post-war problems, domestic and foreign. He served notice on those business leaders who must have confidence in America or America will lose confidence in them. He called on private industry to be prepared to move swiftly and boldly to swing over to peace production the moment Hitler's fate is sealed by the war.

"Millions of workers now engaged in war industries and the millions of young men now serving in the armed forces will need jobs," he said.

A. A. MYRUP DIES AT AFL CONVENTION

Boston—Delegates attending the annual convention of the AFL here were shocked and saddened by the sudden and untimely death of Andrew A. Myrup, executive secretary of Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union for more than a quarter of a century.

Mr. Myrup, who was sixty-three, died in his sleep at the Statler Hotel on the night of Sept. 30. The evening before he had dined with AFL President Green and other labor officials in the hotel and appeared in the best of health and spirits.

His body was sent to his home in Chicago for burial.

BREWER IS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF OLP UNIT

Washington, D. C. — Roy Brewer, for seven years president of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor, has been named director of the Labor and Community Facilities Division of the Office of Labor Production, according to Chairman J. Keenan, WPB vice chairman.

Brewer heads up Labor Production Office activities to minimize plant or community hindrances to all-out production, such as inadequate in-plant feeding facilities, lack of suitable transportation facilities or housing, and illness or accident hazards.

CENTRAL LABOR UNIONS BUY BOMBER FOR ARMY

San Bernardino, Calif. — A check for $415,000 was turned over to the U. S. Treasury Department recently by officials of the AFL San Bernardino and Riverside Central Labor Councils to purchase a four-motored Army bomber which will be christened "The Spirit of Labor," Frank P. Ryan, public relations director of the San Bernardino Metal Trades Council, announced. The money was collected in a three-weeks' War Bond sale campaign.

GREAT BRITAIN HOLDS COST-OF-LIVING LINE

London—Cost of living levels in Great Britain have remained at about 25-30% above 1939 with only slight fluctuation for several months, the bulletin of the International Federation of Trade Unions states.

Food prices have been unchanged for at least two years, around 20% above pre-war level. Stabilization is attributed to Britain's price control policy which makes wide use of subsidies.